

## 26. SOME BUTTERFLIES FROM BHUTAN

The butterfly Fauna of India and neighbouring countries has been studied extensively. But there is no specific literature available on the butterflies of Bhutan (Varshney 1977). Hence a small collection of butterflies made by the Society's staff member, Mr. Rex Pimento during the Ornithological Survey of Bhutan in 1973 will be of some interest to the lepidopterist.

Collections were made at Phuntsholing *c* 2000 ft on 30th September and 1st October, Tongsa *c* 7000 ft from 5th to 11th October and Bumthang *c* 9000 ft from 6th to 20th October. Butterflies collected were identified as belonging to the following species.

## Family: DANAIIDAE

1. **Danaus aglea** (Kluk) Glassy Tiger  
Common at Tongsa and Phuntsholing.
2. **D. melaneus** (Cramer) Chocolate Tiger  
Rare, Single specimen was collected from Tongsa.
3. **D. sita sita** (Kollar) Chestnut Tiger  
Rare, Single specimen was collected at Lodrai (Boorder Road Camp) Near Hatisar.
4. **D. genutia** (Cramer) Common Tiger  
Common at Phuntsholing, Tongsa.

## Family: SATYRIDAE

5. **Ypthima hubneri** Kirby Common Fourring  
Common, specimens collected from Phuntsholing.

## Family: NYMPHALIDAE

6. **Neptis yerburyi** But. Yerbury's Sailer  
Common, specimens collected from Phuntsholing.

7. **Precis hierta** (Fabricius) Yellow Pansy  
Single ♂ and ♀ was collected from Tongsa on 5th October.
8. **P. iphita** (Cramer) Chocolate Pansy  
Single specimen collected from Tongsa.
9. **Vanessa cardui** (Linnaeus) Painted Lady  
Common, specimens collected from Tongsa & Bumthang.
10. **Argynnis lathonia** (Linnaeus) Queen of Spain Fritillary  
Very common at Tongsa and Bumthang.

## Family: ERYCINIDAE

11. **Zemerus flegyas** (Cramer) Punchinello  
Very common, collected from Tongsa, Bumthang and Phuntsholing.
12. **Abisara neophron** (Hewitson) Tailed Judy  
Rare — single specimen collected at Phuntsholing.

## Family: LYCAENIDAE

13. **Hypolycaena erylus** (Godart) Common Tit  
Common, two specimens collected from Phuntsholing.

## Family: PAPILIONIDAE

14. **Papilio clytia** forma **dissimilis** (Linnaeus)  
Common Mime  
Common, specimen collected from Phuntsholing.
15. **Papilio polytes** (Linnaeus) Common Mormon  
Common, single butterfly was collected 30 km away from Tongsa.

## Family: PIERIDAE

16. **Cepora nerissa phryne** (Fabricius) Common Gull

- Wet Season Form, common, collected from Phuntsholing.
17. **Cepora nandina nandina** (Lucas) Lesser Gull  
Common, collected from Phuntsholing.
18. **Appias lyncida** M. Chocolate Albatross  
Common.
19. **Pieris napi montana** (Linnaeus) Green Veined White  
Common.
20. **Ixias pyrene** (Linnaeus) Yellow Orange Tip  
Common ♂ & ♀ collected from Tongsa.
21. **Hebomoia glaucippe** (Linnaeus) Great Orange Tip  
Common, ♂ & ♀ collected from Phuntsholing, common at Tongsa.
22. **Catopsilia crocale** (Cramer) Common Emigrant  
Common at Tongsa, Phuntsholing.

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REFERENCE

VARSHNEY, R. K. (1977): *Index Rhopalocera Indica*. An Index of the local-lists of Butterflies from India and neighbouring countries. *Rec. Zool. Surv. India* 73: 159-177.

27. STRANGE PRACTICE OF A CATERPILLAR — A CORRECTION

In a note titled "Strange practice of a Caterpillar", (1980, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. 76* (2): 368-369) A.S. Bhaduri wrote, "... I found a medium big butterfly with white spotted black wings resting on the wall near that *Curcuma* plant. It was resting with its forewings upright and slightly apart and the hindwings resting flat, the white spots in the wings thus showing to advantage... I take it to be a Hesperiid."

Sevastopulo in a note with the same title (1981, *ibid.*, 77 (3): 532) wrote, "The butterfly with 'white-spotted black wings' observed on the near-by wall was almost certainly the imago that had emerged from the *Curcuma*-feeding caterpillar, probably *Celaenorrhinus* sp."

Sevastopulo's identification is wrong since

(a) *Curcuma* is not a foodplant of *Celaenorrhinus*. In fact *Celaenorrhinus* belongs to subfamily Pyrginae whose foodplants are restricted to the Dicotyledons, whereas *Curcuma* is a Monocotyledon. All Indian Hesperiididae feeding on Monocotyledons belong to subfamily Hesperiiinae. (b) *Celaenorrhinus* sp. always settle with both wings flat; not in the manner described by Bhaduri.

On the basis of Bhaduri's description I would identify the butterfly as *Udaspes folus*, or, possibly *Notocrypta* sp.

Incidentally, a caterpillar I found on *Curcuma* in the Borivli National Park, Bombay on 12th July 1981 pupated on the 13th or 14th of that month and the butterfly which emerged on 20th July 1981 turned out to be *Udaspes folus*.

3, RESHMA APARTMENTS,  
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August 6, 1981.

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